



VOLUME 61 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2011

## Transparent coax.



Manufactured by Fli-Bi-Knight Engineering of Deepwater, Atlantis. Transparent coax as you can see from the picture above comes in various sizes and loss per inch. The company claims water absorption improves losses which increase db loss, just right for QRP operators. Sold at prices only the rich can afford it is the perfect Field Day gift for any ham.

## April Ham Breakfast

### LOCATION

Rudy's Little Hideaway

925 S 8th Street

Saturday, 2 April 2011

Time is from 8:00-9:30 AM

**Come on Out**

## April Club Meeting

The club meeting will be on April 13th (second Wednesday in April, at 7 pm at **Broadway Deli, 301 Garden of the Gods Rd.**

## PPRAA Club Officers

President	Mike Derbort	KCØELG
Vice President	Galen Steele	AGØA
Secretary	Dan Scott	WØRO
Treasurer	Pam Scott	WØPRS
Board	Gordon Dixon	KDØFKF
Board	Dave Moore	KØDAM
Board	Tom Brereton	WØTOM
Board	Doug Nielsen	N7LEM
Ø-Beat Editor	Mike Anderson	WV7T

**All officers can be contacted at:**  
[boardmembers@ppraa.org](mailto:boardmembers@ppraa.org)

### Returning Members

## Welcome back!

Dave Moore, KØDAM  
Henry Russell, KCØNAJ

## Welcome new members:

Shane Banks, KE5TVB  
Steve Stiles, KDØNQO

## PPRAA April Board Meeting

### PPRAA March 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting

Call to Order – 7:00 pm

**Minutes of the February board meeting** – John Wishart, KCØJFH moved and Dan Scott, WØRO seconded, all approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Pam Scott reported that we had \$8,521.03 in the 3 bank accounts.

**Megafest Committee** – Next meeting is Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm just before the regular meeting starts. John Maxwell and the Rocky Mountain Hams will be there with their trailer. Peanut & Rooster, Steve WGØAT's goats will be there. We need lots of volunteers to help with setup, moderator for forums, selling tickets, etc. Terry Kift, KDØJAX has been working on publicity for us. Forums – TechConnect will be there

### Social Networking –

Website – Doug Nielsen, W7LEM, is looking at new tools to update the website.

Facebook – sent out reminders about the meeting to all friends of our page

**Special Event** – American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure – Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> bike ride along highway 67. We are working with PPARES to man this event for communications and safety. Contact Rob Roller to sign up to help. [n7lv@amsat.org](mailto:n7lv@amsat.org)

**Library update** – no new news at this meeting (updated after the meeting, we've lost our June spot)

**Club station out east** – Pam Scott, WØPRS, Dan Scott, WØRO, Doug Nielsen, N7LEM, and Diana Nordstrom, KCØNPP visited the location. The

foundation has been poured and framework has been started.

**Location for permanent club meetings** – Michael Derbort, KCØELG has been checking on this. The former NAPA building off Nevada is a possibility.

#### **New Business –**

**Membership** – What does our \$15 dues get us?

Ideas were discussed including, tech support, education, access to the club shack and equipment and the newsletter. The non-member could have access to the archive newsletters, but not the current one.

Committees –

**Awards** – ideas for different awards instead of just the most points on contests, possibly points for participation

**Around the Table** – Gordon Dixon, KDØFKF checked on getting embroidered hats, shirts, etc with Embroidered Expressions at Citadel Mall. He will check back with them after taking a logo to them. Galen Steele, AGØA moved we adjourn. Gordon, Dixon, KDØFKF seconded. All approved.

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## **PPRAA Club Meeting**

### **PPRAA Club Meeting**

03/09/11

President Michael Derbort, KCØELG, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM at Broadway Deli, followed by introductions around the room. As part of their introduction, attendees told us what they've done with ham radio in the past week.

**Silent Keys:** none at this time

**Minutes** – Dick Thompson, WØRAA moved and Gordon Dixon, KDØFKF seconded that the February meeting minutes be approved as published in the Zero Beat with correction - Jackie is VE contact not liaison. Approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Pam Scott reported that we had \$8,521.03 total balance in our three accounts as of 28 February 2011.

**Megafest 2011** – Date has been set as July 16<sup>th</sup> at Lewis Palmer High School. Megafest planning meetings will be at 6:00 PM the same night as our regular club meeting.

**Electronic Media Committee** – Stephen Dalfallo-Daley, KØSDD updated us on Facebook. Check out the forums on there.

**Membership update** – Michael Derbort, KCØELG mapped out where the members are and Fillmore & I-25 area is about the central location. We're looking at a larger location – probably in the next month or so.

**Awards/Contest committee** – let Michael know if you're interested in being on this committee. We need to decide what the rules should be, what awards to be given, etc.

**Ham Breakfast** – next month is Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the location is Rudy's Hideaway, 925 8<sup>th</sup> S. Street 8:00 am.

**Skywarn** training is also Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> CS Police Department 4100 Tutt Blvd 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Thursday night 10m net** - #125 is tomorrow night at 28.390. Doc has been switching to other frequencies depending on whose listening. Great place for technician class operators!

**Tech Ed** – next VE session the club is sponsoring is this Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at Colorado Tech University. More details are on the website. Mike Anderson, WV7T, with the help of Jeff Hagin, KCØSXV has set up classes for licensing. Contact Mike for more details. Michael Sparling, KCØUWN has agreed to help Jackie. General class lesson pool will be changing in July 2011.

**Library display at Briargate public library** – we have the display for the month of June 2011. Still need to decide what we want to have in there. No other update at this time. (edited after the meeting – our slot for June has been taken)

**Club photographer and historian** – still need help with these positions. Les gave us details on what this job entails.

## **ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Hamcon –**

August 5-7 Taos, NM. We will setup a forum for those interested in carpooling. Check out this website for more details.

<http://www.2011convention.org/>

**Club station** – location is east of Shriever AFB. The board has offered to the owner club members to help with walls, electrical, etc. We have an attorney that is willing to help write up the paperwork for owner to get a tax deduction.

**In town club location** – permanent location in town – old NAPA auto parts store is a possible location. Michael Derbort, KCØELG is working on this.

## **American Diabetes Association Tour de cure –**

May 14, 2011, Radio operators needed to assist in this event. Rob Roller, N7LV, is contact person, email Rob at [n7lv@amsat.org](mailto:n7lv@amsat.org)

Motorcycle race in October, more details coming soon.

**COQP** will be Saturday of Labor Day weekend. Need help in promoting this event.

Dick Thompson, WØRAA mentioned about silkscreened hats – name and call sign \$8.75, \$15.00 setup charge, he can also do jackets, shirts, etc. His son also has the ability to do embroidery as well.

Mike Anderson, WV7T, asked if anyone is interested in a local chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. Several members are interested so Mike will follow up with this.

Mike Anderson is going to hold a special event station for the month of May to celebrate his 40<sup>th</sup> year as a ham.

**Program** – Dan Scott showed us how easy it is to sign up for Logbook of the World.

**Next Board Meeting:** 7 PM, Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at Perkins on Powers/Constitution

**Next Club Meeting:** The next club meeting will be April 13th at Broadway Deli.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

## **Public Service Event**

The American Diabetes Assn has asked for ham radio assistance from the Colorado Springs community. Dan Scott received the initial request from the Denver office of the ADA, and given the scope of the ride, it seems in the best interest of the ride to get several groups involved to provide comm for this event. It originates in Woodland Park so we're also starting to coordinate with Mountain ARC, and ARES has had numerous bicycle ride support missions, so ARES is helping too. In other words, PPRAA, MARC and PPARES are sources for operators.

Here's the info:

May 14 - Tour de Cure Bicycle Ride - Public Service Event

American Diabetes Assn - Tour de Cure

Some of this information is from the ADA Tour de Cure planning guide.

Welcome to the 2011 Southern Colorado Tour de Cure!

We are currently planning the INAUGURAL Southern Colorado Tour de Cure and it's promising to be a fantastic event! We have secured routes, safety & medical support and have an extraordinary post-ride party at the finish line! This guide contains information to help you prepare for the Tour de Cure and tips to ensure you have a great experience on the day of the ride. It's fun and most importantly it's for a great cause - raising funds in support of the 24 million Americans living with diabetes and their families.

### Route Descriptions

The Southern Colorado Tour de Cure begins at Meadow Wood Sports Complex located at 2000 Evergreen Heights, Woodland Park. There are four routes designed to appeal to all skill levels. Routes include:

**14-Mile Fun Ride:** Our family-friendly Fun Ride is accessible to all ages and fitness levels and features beautiful views on a smooth bike path that follows Highway 67.

50-Mile Ride: Our 50 Mile Ride offers a moderate challenge while being safe and scenic. Frequent rest stops and plenty of SAG (Support and Gear) patrols make this ride a great choice for the beginner to intermediate cyclist.

86-Mile Ride: Our 86 Mile Ride features 6,100 feet of climbing and some of the most beautiful scenery in Southern Colorado as it follows the South Platte and then climbs back into Woodland Park with a panoramic view of Pikes Peak, making it the perfect choice for the intermediate to advanced cyclist. Full route support, including rest stops, medical stations, mechanics and SAG vehicles ensures a safe ride from start to finish.

Mountain Bike Route: Our Mountain Bike Course will be challenging enough for your intermediate cyclist but still fun for our beginner riders. Nestled in the Pike National Forest surrounding Woodland Park, this route proves to be one of the best in Colorado!

All of the rides start and end at the Meadow Wood Sports Complex in woodland Park, and proceed north up CO Hwy 67 to Deckers, then loops around through Foxton and Buffalo Creek, and back to Deckers, then down to Woodland Park. The shorter rides don't go as far.

For amateur radio support:

We will need volunteer operators for rest stops, start/stop area, shadows for key personnel, and likely operators with some of the tour vehicles. Also, the tour will be using motorcycle riders (Gold Wing Riders) who will be communicating to each other on CB. Those of you with CB capability can make use of the 11-meter band to keep in touch with those riders when they're in range of your location.

The communications and mission plan is in the works, so that will be ready some time in the near future.

If you've wanting to participate in a public service event, this looks to be a fun and interesting one. So I hope you can! To sign up, visit <http://www.wavelinedata.com/ARESPSE> and look for the section on the Tour de

Cure. (Al Glock KC0PRM will be updating this web site shortly, if it's not already there.)

This ride will be a topic of discussion at the March PPRAA meeting on 3/9, and also at the MARC March meeting on 3/16. Tune in to the nets for additional information.

Plans and support information will be posted to the ppares.org web site as well.

There will likely be hams from PPRAA, MARC and PPARES, and possibly people from other groups such as Park Co. Radio Club, ARES D-23 (Jefferson Co) and ARES D-24 (Douglas Co), depending on our needs and how our coordination goes.

73  
Rob  
N7LV

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## CCARC

The Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs (CCARC) is an umbrella organization for the Amateur Radio Clubs of the State of Colorado. The CCARC has approximately 40 member clubs including PPRAA. The CCARC is a sounding board organization providing all member clubs with a place to develop new ties to organizations that can provide you assistance technically and from a membership standpoint. The CCARC is also the recognized coordination body for repeater and auxiliary linking channels in the state.

If you would like to visit the spring meeting, it is being held on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. It will be held at Colorado College, Worner Center in the WES Room (downstairs), 14 East Cache La Poudre Street, Colorado Springs, CO. Parking is just east of Cascade on Cache La Poudre. This meeting is being sponsored by the Cheyenne Mountain Repeater Group.

If you are like me, you generally are not worried about the coordination of the repeaters, you just care that the repeater you want to use is on the air at the frequency as published in a repeater directory or the CCARC repeater map. But coordination goes beyond just repeaters and the each state has a regulatory equivalent to the CCARC which fine tunes the band plans for that

state. For example the Colorado FM Voice Simplex Frequencies for 2 meters have been broken into 26 Channels with 15 KHz channel spacing (or 15K0F3E)

The 26 channel 2-meter simplex frequencies are:

146.400 146.415 146.430 146.445 146.460  
146.475 146.490 146.505 \*146.520 146.535  
146.550 146.565 146.580 146.595 147.420  
147.435 147.450 147.465 147.480 147.495  
147.510 147.525 147.540 147.555 147.570  
147.585

*Note: \* 146.520 is the National FM Voice Simplex Calling Frequency*

To find more about our CCARC or the frequency coordination band plans within Colorado, please visit the CCARC web site at: <http://www.ccarc.net>.

73,  
Dan – W0RO  
PPRAA Secretary



It is done and works great. The beam is at 33' (wish it could be 75' to 100'), but it works great. Again my thanks to all who helped make it possible.

Dick  
WØRAA

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## WØRAA Antenna installation with Hazer



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## Technical Education



Mike Anderson, WV7T  
[wv7t@arrl.net](mailto:wv7t@arrl.net)  
719-229-8610

## \*\*\*LICENSE CLASSES\*\*\*

*Classes for Technician and  
General licenses are being held.  
Contact Mike WV7T for  
information.*

**License and code instruction. Electronic theory.  
Technical instruction upon request.**

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## Ø-Beat April 1981

Dave Gieskieng, WØFK, gave the March presentation on his DL antenna. He also wrote an article for this months' Ø Beat describing the antenna and how it works. New novice classes will begin on April 7th at 7:30 pm at North Jr. High. The restaurant used for the Saturday morning breakfasts has been closed down – need to find a new restaurant! There's a technical article on coax attenuation, velocity factor, etc. this month. The April meeting will be by Bob Poirier KØDJ on traffic handling.

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## APRIL CONTESTS

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## April 2011

- [+ ARCI Spring QSO Party 1200Z, Apr 2 to 2359Z, Apr 3](#)
- [+ SP DX Contest 1500Z, Apr 2 to 1500Z, Apr 3](#)
- [+ Missouri QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 2 to 0500Z, Apr 3 and 1800Z-2359Z, Apr 3](#)
- [+ QCWA Spring QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 2 to 1800Z, Apr 3](#)
- [+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW 1900Z-2030Z, Apr 4](#)
- [+ ARS Spartan Sprint 0100Z-0300Z, Apr 5](#)
- [+ SARL 80m QSO Party 1700Z-2000Z, Apr 7](#)

- [+ Montana QSO Party 0000Z, Apr 9 to 2400Z, Apr 10](#)
- [+ JIDX CW Contest 0700Z, Apr 9 to 1300Z, Apr 10](#)
- [+ PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest 1200-1800 local, Apr 9](#)
- [+ New Mexico QSO Party 1400Z, Apr 9 to 0200Z, Apr 10](#)
- [+ EU Spring Sprint, CW 1600Z-1959Z, Apr 9](#)
- [+ Georgia QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 9 to 0359Z, Apr 10 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 10](#)
- [+ SKCC Weekend Sprint 0000Z-2400Z, Apr 10](#)
- [+ UBA Spring Contest, SSB 0600Z-1000Z, Apr 10](#)
- [+ Hungarian Straight Key Contest 1500Z-1700Z, Apr 10](#)
- [+ NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Apr 13](#)
- [+ CWops Mini-CWT Test 1100Z-1200Z, Apr 13 and 1900Z-2000Z, Apr 13 and 0300Z-0400Z, Apr 14](#)
- [+ NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint 1800Z-2000Z, Apr 13](#)
- [+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB 1900Z-2030Z, Apr 13](#)
- [+ Holyland DX Contest 0000Z-2359Z, Apr 16](#)
- [+ TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Apr 16](#)
- [+ ES Open HF Championship 0500Z-0859Z, Apr 16](#)

± CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest 1500Z, Apr 16 to 2359Z, Apr 17

± EU Spring Sprint, SSB 1600Z-1959Z, Apr 16

± Feld Hell Sprint 1600Z-1800Z, Apr 16

± Michigan QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 16 to 0400Z, Apr 17

± Ontario QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 16 to 1800Z, Apr 17

± YU DX Contest 2100Z, Apr 16 to 1700Z, Apr 17

± ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB 1800Z-2359Z, Apr 17

± RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data 1900Z-2030Z, Apr 21

± 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital 0001Z, Apr 23 to 2359Z, Apr 24

± SP DX RTTY Contest 1200Z, Apr 23 to 1200Z, Apr 24

± Helvetia Contest 1300Z, Apr 23 to 1259Z, Apr 24

± Nebraska QSO Party 1700Z, Apr 23 to 1700Z, Apr 24

± SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, Apr 27

± QRP to the Field 1500Z, Apr 30 to 0300Z, May 1

± Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 30 to 0159Z, May 1 and 1200Z-2159Z, May 1

± BARTG Sprint 75 1700Z-2100Z, Apr 30

## Thursday Evening Net

Please join us for the Thursday Night 10-meter net. We meet at 7:00 PM (Local) on or near **28.390** USB. The goal of the net is for Technicians through Extra class operators to enjoy a weekly on-the-air chat, and experiment with various transmission modes. The outcome of the net has been a surprise to new better understanding of our radios, filter usage, mic gain, transmission line..etc.

**We give out 10-10 numbers!**

This is a perfect net for an introduction to HF and/or SSB too. The net is informal, just jump in with your call and net control will get you on the list. One thing that is (almost) always is giving a description of you rig, antenna system and approximate location.

Technicians remain operating SSB as do other class operators with SSB only radios. If you are restricted to SSB do not let that bother you as we take that into account even as we jump between modes (AM, FM, DSB, USB).

Hope to hear you Thursdays on the net!

73s  
Dan WØRO



**PPRAA APRIL VE EXAM**

## April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

PPRAA VE session will be held at 9 am on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Room 101 Colorado Technical University.

Directions to CTU are at the PPRAA website [ppraa.org](http://ppraa.org).

Applicants will need the following items at the session:

1. A valid PHOTO ID, driver's license preferred (if you do not have a valid photo ID, please call for alternative identification requirements).
2. Your SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (now required and includes children). Your SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER or FRN (FCC Registration Number) if already licensed or previously obtained (required for ALL candidates, regardless of age).
3. Your ORIGINAL amateur radio license (if any) AND a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.
4. The ORIGINAL of any relevant CSCEs you may have AND a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.
5. Cash, Check or Money Order for \$14 (standard ARRL VE Fee).

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA  
POC VE Team  
719-632-8254

# Dits and Bits

## For Sale or Wanted

Have something to sell or trying to find something or just want to see something get to a good home?

Send it in to [wv7t@arrl.net](mailto:wv7t@arrl.net) and see it in Dits and Bits.

## For Sale

Yaesu FT-897D.

Purchased new June 2006.

Non-smoker.

Has original box....complete....manual, etc.

Condition is 10 of 10.

The only option is the Yaesu FP-30 built-in power supply.

This would be a great rig for a new ham.

HF, VHF, UHF....SSB, CW, FM, Digital, etc.

Priced at \$850

Frank, KFØZ

719-594-9386

[fhilligas@msn.com](mailto:fhilligas@msn.com)

## FOR SALE

Alinco DJ-580 HT Dual band, Dual receive with a Radio Shack Microphone. This also includes a drop in rapid charger, takes about an hour to charge, plus an Alinco Model EDC-34 Ni-CD Battery Charger. Everything works as it's supposed to. I would like \$140.00 obo. Reason for sale I have three HT's... Please email me at [N0mud@arrl.net](mailto:N0mud@arrl.net) or call 719-597-1906"

## FOR SALE

Spring cleaning continues!

Yaesu VX-5 \$150.00 Dual band HT. Includes original box, charger, antenna. It has a new battery as the Yaesu one died, no manual but you can download it from Yaesu.com. Manual could be at the Montana location.

Yaesu FT-857 HF Rig \$700.00 includes the optional 300hz and 2.3khz filtering. Radio has minor scratches and is in very good shape. It was not used mobile. Original Box, Mic, power cord, mounting bracket and manual included.

Nye Viking Squeeze key for keyers \$25.00 missing a rubber foot on the bottom. Otherwise in good shape.

(2) Rigblaster Pro \$150 each. Includes cables and manual. No boxes. They are in good shape. Great for contest interfacing, RTTY, PSK etc. These are the older units without USB.

Rigblaster M8 \$50.00 Great for rtty, psk etc. In good shape. No box, no manual.

(2) Astatic D104 mics with the UG8 base. \$60.00 each These are new but I do not have the boxes. They are in very good shape.

I am located near Castle rock. All items can be viewed, tested etc.

I am offering these to locals first before I put them on QTH.com or Ebay.

Mike WØMU  
303 548 7222 cell

## WANTED:

**WANTED:** Aluminum tubing, coax, hose clamps, wire insulators, wire (apx 12-14 guage). For new ham antenna classes.

Mike WV7T  
wv7t@arrl.net

Ø BEAT IS  
ALWAYS  
LOOKING FOR  
INTERESTING  
ARTICLES  
AND  
PICTURES.



Such is the life of a QRP operator!



Field Day operating positions

**Membership Application**  
**Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  New Membership  Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL mbr?  Yes  No

Additional Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL mbr?  Yes  No

Additional Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL mbr?  Yes  No

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want your newsletter delivered via e-mail in PDF Format? \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No

Are you an ARRL member?  Yes  No

One year membership rates, prorated, January through December:

(See schedule at bottom)

Full Member - \$15.00

Family Membership (same address) - \$18.00

Full Member over 65 - \$10.00

Family Membership (both over 65) - \$12.00

Associate Member - \$12.00

Newsletter only \$12.00

Please check activities for which you would volunteer:

Field Day  Hamfest  Hospitality  Public Relations

RFI Committee  Radio demonstrations

On-Air Nets/Roundtables  Teach potential hams about ham radio (Elmering)

Special Event Communications (walks, foot races, bicycle races, etc.)

Your Interests:

HF  VHF/UHF  Contests  Technical  FM  SSB  Pub Svc/Emergency Comm

Digital  DX  Hardware  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

	Jan- Mar	Apr-June	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Full:	\$15.00	\$11.25	\$7.50	\$3.75
Family:	\$18.00	\$13.50	\$9.00	\$4.50
Senior:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
Sr Fam:	\$12.00	\$9.00	\$6.00	\$3.00
Associate:	\$12.00	\$9.00	\$6.00	\$3.00

*Please Note: You must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer for both new members as well as renewals. Thank you. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY!*

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**Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 16521  
Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521 USA**

**To:**